

Colorado
Agricultural
Statistical
Service

COLORADO
SHEEP AND LAMB
LOSSES -- 1995

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Colorado farmers and ranchers lost 80,000 head of sheep and lambs to all causes in 1995, representing a total value of \$5.89 million, according to a survey conducted by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Colorado Wool Growers Association. A similar survey for 1994 indicated that 90,000 head of all sheep and lambs were lost from all causes, valued at \$5.60 million. While the number of losses was down 11 percent from 1994, the higher value for both sheep and lambs resulted in a 5 percent increase in the total value of those losses. The total inventory of all sheep and lambs at the beginning of 1995, at 545,000 head, was down 16 percent from the 647,000 on hand one year earlier. The 1995 lamb crop of 240,000 was down 6 percent from the 255,000 lambs docked in 1994.

Predators caused an estimated \$1.93 million in losses during 1995 compared with a value of \$2.07 million in 1994. They accounted for 26,000 head (33 percent of all losses) in 1995 compared with 33,000 head (37 percent of all losses) in 1994. Coyotes were responsible for \$1.18 million, representing 61 percent of the value loss from all predators and 20 percent of the value loss from all causes. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 21,800 head in 1994 compared with 26,500 head a year earlier, with coyotes claiming the most animals in each year. Mountain Lions were the second most damaging predator for lambs, claiming 2,400 head in 1995 and 3,900 head in 1994. Bears were responsible for the loss of 1,700 head of lambs in 1995 compared with 2,100 head a year earlier. Coyotes were also the biggest threat to mature sheep, destroying 1,800 head and 2,700 head in 1995 and 1994, respectively. Coyotes and dogs were responsible for losses in each area of the state. All predators were active in the Northwest and Mountain area and in the San Luis Valley, and all except fox caused losses in the Southwest. More than 80 percent of all losses from eagles, foxes, and mountain lions occurred in the Northwest and Mountain area. One half of the predator losses in the San Luis Valley were caused by dogs.

The total value of sheep and lamb losses from **non-predators** was estimated at \$3.59 million in 1995, up 22 percent from \$2.93 million a year earlier. Non-predator losses of 49,000 head in 1995 represented 61 percent of all losses compared with 47,400 head or 53 percent of all losses in 1994. Losses from disease accounted for 71 percent of the total value loss from non-predators with weather and lambing problems accounting for most of the remaining value loss. Disease claimed more than three fourths of the lambs lost from non-predators but less than one third of the mature sheep losses were the result of disease. Disease, most of which were digestive or respiratory related, were the major cause of loss in the Northeast area where most of the state's commercial feedlots are located.

The value of sheep and lambs lost to **unknown causes** declined 38 percent from the previous year to \$369 thousand as the number lost declined from 9,600 head in 1994 to 5,000 head in 1995. Lamb losses to unknown causes totaled 4,000 in 1995 compared with 7,900 the previous year while mature sheep losses, at 1,000 head, were down from 1,700 head a year earlier.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Inventory, Death Losses, and Value of Losses, Colorado, 1994-95

Year	January 1 Inventory	Lamb Crop	DEATH LOSSES					
	SHEEP		ALL LAMBS			ALL SHEEP & LAMBS		
	Total Losses		Before Docking	After Docking	All Lambs	Total Loss	% of Supply <u>1/</u>	
	1,000 Head		1,000 Head		1,000 Head		Percent	
1994	647	255	15	20	55	75	90	9.8
1995	545	240	10	15	55	70	80	10.0
Year	TOTAL SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES BY CAUSE				VALUE OF LOSSES			
	Predator Losses		Non-Predator	Unknown Causes	Predator	Non-Predator	Unknown	Total
	Total Loss	Percent of Supply <u>1/</u>						
	1,000 Hd.	Percent	1,000 Head		1,000 Dollars			
1994	33.0	3.6	47.4	9.6	2,073.8	2,929.2	599.6	5,602.5
1995	26.0	3.3	49.0	5.0	1,930.4	3,585.1	374.5	5,890.0

1/ Supply includes sheep and lambs on hand January 1 plus lamb crop plus lamb losses before docking.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: Number and Value of Losses by Cause, Colorado, 1994-95 1/

Cause	Sheep				Lambs				Total Sheep & Lambs			
	No. Lost		Value <u>2/</u>		No. Lost		Value <u>2/</u>		No. Lost		Value <u>2/</u>	
	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995
Predator:	1,000 Head		\$1,000		1,000 Head		\$1,000		1,000 Head		\$1,000	
Bear	1.3	.8	102.1	70.8	2.1	1.7	123.9	121.6	3.4	2.5	226.0	192.4
Bobcat	...	...	...	...	.1	.2	5.9	14.3	.1	.2	5.9	14.3
Coyote	2.7	1.8	212.0	159.3	16.2	14.3	955.8	1,022.5	18.9	16.1	1,167.8	1,181.8
Dog	1.0	.7	78.5	62.0	1.6	1.3	94.4	93.0	2.6	2.0	172.9	154.9
Eagle	...	...	...	...	.7	.6	41.3	42.9	.7	.6	41.3	42.9
Fox	...	...	...	...	1.4	1.0	82.6	71.5	1.4	1.0	82.6	71.5
Mountain Lion	1.2	.8	94.2	70.8	3.9	2.4	230.1	171.6	5.1	3.2	324.3	242.4
Wolf	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Predator <u>3/</u>	.3	.1	23.6	8.9	.5	.3	29.5	21.5	.8	.4	53.1	30.3
Total Predator	6.5	4.2	510.3	371.7	26.5	21.8	1,563.5	1,558.7	33.0	26.0	2,073.8	1,930.4
Non-Predator:												
All Diseases	2.2	1.5	172.7	132.8	30.7	33.7	1,811.3	2,409.6	32.9	35.2	1,984.0	2,542.3
Weather related	.4	.3	31.4	26.6	2.2	3.7	129.8	264.6	2.6	4.0	161.2	291.1
Lambing problems	.4	.3	31.4	26.6	2.8	2.9	165.2	207.4	3.2	3.2	196.6	233.9
Old age	1.3	1.0	102.1	88.5	...	...	...	...	1.3	1.0	102.1	88.5
Being on back	.3	.2	23.6	17.7	...	...	...	...	.3	.2	23.6	17.7
Poisoning	1.1	.6	86.4	53.1	1.8	1.4	106.2	100.1	2.9	2.0	192.6	153.2
Theft	.1	.1	7.9	8.9	.3	.3	17.7	21.5	.4	.4	25.6	30.3
Other causes <u>4/</u>	1.0	.8	78.5	70.8	2.8	2.2	165.2	157.3	3.8	3.0	243.7	228.1
Total Non-Predator	6.8	4.8	533.8	424.8	40.6	44.2	2,395.4	3,160.3	47.4	49.0	2,929.2	3,585.1
Unknown Causes	1.7	1.0	133.5	88.5	7.9	4.0	466.1	286.0	9.6	5.0	599.6	374.5
Total All Causes	15.0	10.0	1,177.5	885.0	75.0	70.0	4,425.0	5,005.0	90.0	80.0	5,602.5	5,890.0

1/ Sheep value is based on a two year average value per head of ewes 1 year old and older; Revised value of \$78.50 for 1994, \$88.50 for 1995. Lamb value is based on the marketing year average price received for a 90 pound lamb; \$59.00 for 1994, \$71.50 for 1995. 2/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 3/ Includes unknown predator losses. 4/ Includes unknown non-predator losses.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS: Percent Loss Within Each Agricultural Statistics District,
by Type of Predator, Colorado, 1995 1/**

Cause	Agricultural Statistics District						State
	NW & Mountain	Northeast	East Central	Southwest	San Luis Valley	Southeast	
Predator:	Percent						
Bear.....	59.6	...	...	38.1	2.3	...	100.0
Bobcat	42.0	...	...	52.5	2.0	3.5	100.0
Coyote	41.2	3.6	5.0	30.9	18.2	1.1	100.0
Dog	10.0	11.2	10.0	11.0	50.9	6.9	100.0
Eagle	88.7	...	...	8.5	2.8	...	100.0
Fox.....	91.1	...	...	...	8.9	...	100.0
Mountain Lion.....	81.9	...	...	10.1	8.0	...	100.0
Other Predators <u>2/</u>	65.8	6.5	3.2	7.4	17.1	...	100.0
Total Predator	49.9	3.8	3.1	25.4	16.7	1.1	100.0

1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

2/ Includes unknown predators.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS: Percent Loss Within Each Agricultural Statistics District
by Non-predator and Unknown Causes, Colorado, 1995 1/**

Cause	Agricultural Statistics District						State
	NW & Mountain	Northeast	East Central	Southwest	San Luis Valley	Southeast	
Non-Predator:	Percent						
All Diseases	1.9	75.8	13.8	5.5	2.6	.4	100.0
Weather related causes	24.8	10.8	28.2	13.2	15.7	7.3	100.0
Lambing problems	5.7	1.0	11.8	53.4	19.5	8.6	100.0
Old age	15.8	26.6	8.3	35.2	10.2	3.9	100.0
Being on their back	30.7	...	1.2	16.1	48.0	4.0	100.0
Poisoning	16.6	1.4	7.2	69.9	3.5	1.4	100.0
Theft.....	1.0	...	...	74.0	25.0	...	100.0
Other non-predator <u>2/</u> ...	26.6	38.7	3.2	13.8	14.9	2.8	100.0
Unknown Causes	38.7	31.0	1.5	17.1	10.2	1.5	100.0
Total Non-Predator & Unknown Causes ...	8.3	59.8	13.1	10.7	6.4	1.7	100.0

1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

2/ Includes unknown non-predator losses.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: Percent of Loss by Cause and Size of Flock, Colorado, 1994-95 1/

Cause	Stock Sheep Operations by Size of Flock						Commercial Feedlots		All Sizes	
	1 - 99		100 - 999		1,000 Plus					
	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995
Predator:	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Bear .....	.7	.3	3.2	4.4	7.6	5.4	...	...	3.8	3.1
Bobcat.....	...	...	.2	...	.2	.9	...	...	...	.2
Coyote.....	24.1	25.1	23.5	24.9	33.2	29.3	4.1	3.6	21.0	20.1
Dog.....	3.9	6.9	11.9	9.7	1.5	.5	.9	.4	2.9	2.5
Eagle.....	...	...	1.6	.7	1.3	2.5	...	...	.8	.8
Fox .....	.4	.2	1.6	.8	3.0	1.8	...	...	1.6	1.3
Mountain Lion	5.7	2.8	5.3	4.8	10.3	7.5	...	...	5.7	4.0
Wolf.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Predator <u>2/</u>	.7	.4	1.0	.7	1.6	.7	...	...	.9	.5
Total Predator: ...	35.5	35.7	48.3	46.0	58.7	48.6	5.0	4.0	36.7	32.5
Non-Predator:										
All Diseases.....	23.0	22.3	20.0	21.4	14.3	16.3	73.6	86.5	36.6	44.0
Weather related	4.3	10.0	9.3	5.9	2.9	7.5	.3	2.6	2.9	5.0
Lambing problems .	13.5	6.9	4.6	8.7	4.3	3.8	...	...	3.6	4.0
Old age	1.8	7.6	3.8	2.6	1.8	1.4	...	...	1.5	1.3
Being on back.....	1.1	.3	1.0	1.1	.3	.3	...	...	.3	.2
Poisoning.....	.7	.8	1.0	1.7	6.9	4.1	...	...	3.2	2.5
Theft .....	...	.2	1.8	.3	.4	...	...	...	.4	.5
Other non-predator	8.8	6.0	3.2	3.8	2.4	5.1	6.1	2.6	4.2	3.8
<u>3/</u>										
Total Non-Predator.....	53.2	54.1	44.7	45.5	33.3	38.5	80.0	91.7	52.7	61.3
Unknown Causes	11.3	10.2	7.0	8.5	8.0	12.9	15.0	4.3	10.6	6.2
Total All Causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

... = none reported.

1/ Includes lambs before and after docking.

2/ Includes unknown predator losses.

3/ Includes unknown non-predator causes.